

**Cultural and Historical Affairs Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2010**

The Bethany Beach Cultural and Historical Affairs Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. in the Town Meeting Room, 214 Garfield Parkway, Bethany Beach, DE 19930.

Members present: Carol Olmstead, who presided; Margaret Young, Gloria Farrar, Mary Lou Urquhart, Mary Lou McNerney, Pat Rogers, Pam Szypulski and Jane Fowler (who arrived later).

Excused members: Theo Loppatto

Also present: Wendy Fitz, guest; Monica Fleming of Coastal Point; Lindsey Shallcross, Administrative Secretary.

Call to Order

Ms. Olmstead called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m.

She acknowledged Wendy Montanari Kilpatrick presence. Ms. Kilpatrick is the daughter of Val Montanari, who started the Historical Association. The Committee expressed their appreciation to Ms. Patrick for her donation of post cards and a t-shirt from *Boss Ice Cream*.

Approval of Minutes from the November 17, 2009 Meeting

After a few corrections, Ms. Farrar made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Ms. McNerney seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Oral History Project

Feedback from Interviews Conducted

Ms. Young and Ms. Urquhart reported that the interviews they completed went well and that Ray Disney has a relaxed, yet personable demeanor.

Ms. Urquhart explained that some interviewees didn't elaborate on their answers, so the answers were short.

Ms. Olmstead suggested to the Committee that they should not give the interviewees the questions before the interview. The members agreed.

Ms. Olmstead stated that what is important are early memories of Bethany Beach. She proposed the questions being asked should be open-ended such as:

- 1.) Would you share with us your earliest memories of Bethany Beach?
- 2.) Tell us about your family first coming to Bethany Beach.

Ms. Olmstead asked the Committee members to give the completed release forms to Ms. Farrar so she can keep them on file.

The Committee discussed meeting with Mr. Disney to go over the interviews after more of them are complete in able to gain insight on how the project is progressing.

Need to Fill Wednesday and Thursday Schedules for R. Disney

Ms. Olmstead expressed that the Committee needs to make exceptional efforts to schedule the interviews since the holidays are over and people are less busy. She noted that Mr. Disney is able to conduct the interviews at their homes if necessary, but a better product will be produced if they are done in his studio.

Mr. Disney still has Wednesdays and Thursdays from noon to 3:00 p.m. set aside for the interviews.

Overall, Ms. Olmstead acknowledged that she is happy with the Committee's start towards this project.

Historical Plaques

View New Plaques

Ms. Olmstead reported that the historical plaques have arrived and that they are well done.

She noted that she asked the Town Manager, Clifford Graviat, if the plaques to be installed on the boardwalk can be covered by the Town's insurance policies. She found that nothing on the boardwalk is covered by insurance.

Ms. Olmstead is going to ask Public Works Director, Brett Warner, if the plaques can be removed during the winter. Ms. Young agreed that removing the plaques in the winter will keep them in better condition.

Input Regarding Guidelines for Restored Homes

Ms. Olmstead stated that she tried contacting other towns regarding guidelines for restored homes, but she didn't receive a response.

The Committee collaborated together to establish guidelines for restored homes located in Bethany Beach. The guidelines they came up with are as follows:

- 1.) It must be built before 1929.
- 2.) The owner must show a verified photograph of the house when it was first built.
- 3.) The front/facade must be identical to the original house.

Ms. Fowler made a motion to establish these guidelines. Ms. Young seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Loop Canal Centennial

Committee for Input to CHAC

Ms. Young stated that she is going to ask Bill Addy for a copy of a portion of his grandmother, Jenny Addy's, diary from the time period that the Loop Canal was being built.

Ms. Farrar followed up on her suggestion at the last meeting to re-build a dock at the Loop Canal by handing out a proposal to the Committee members. The proposal is as follows:

The Loop Canal will be 100 years old this year. It was completed in 1910 so travelers could come by boat from the Rehoboth train station directly into Bethany. In celebration of this anniversary we are proposing to have a dock installed on the site similar to what existed in 1910.

A dock would open make for easy access to the canal and provide a very special spot in our town for folks to really see the canal.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to exploring the ways and means to bring this to fruition during the anniversary year.

Ms. Olmstead advised that this is a good idea, but will be expensive. She said that she will bring it forth for the consideration at the next Town Manager's Meeting.

Other Suggestions for Recognition

Ms. Olmstead said that Ms. Loppatto mentioned at the last meeting that she would be willing to start a Loop Canal Committee. Ms. Urquhart, Ms. Young, and Ms. McNerney volunteered to be members of this Committee.

Ms. Olmstead advised them to meet and bring back their ideas to CHAC at the next meeting. She said that it will be good to have an idea for the Loop Canal Anniversary by spring.

Ms. Olmstead mentioned that she wrote an e-mail to John Himmelberg of the Bethany Beach Landowner's Association (BBLA) regarding our publishing of the historical pamphlet so that it is available to the public. He responded that he will bring it up to the Board and get back to her. He also said that he feels it may need to be updated.

Letter Regarding Historical Postcards

Ms. Olmstead distributed to the Committee members a letter from Elizabeth Bray, Acquisitions Editor of Arcadia Publishing, asking if the Town is interested in being part of the Postcard History Series.

Ms. Olmstead stated to the Committee members that if it's something they want to pursue then she will contact Ms. Bray for more details and to request a sample book.

The Committee decided to request a sample book and ask specifically what will be asked of them before committing to the project.

Other Business

Ms. Olmstead distributed a press release from the Laurel Public Library advertising a program on “Family Heirloom Preservation” for those Committee members who want to attend. The program is being held on Thursday, January 28, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

She then handed out a list of on-going projects that need to be completed:

- News articles album (Ms. Urquhart, Ms. Szypulski, Ms. Olmstead, and Ms. Rogers).
- Labels for the photographs displayed around the Town Hall (Ms. Olmstead and Ms. Loppatto).
- Note cards of historical houses: Ms. Olmstead asked the members if they should re-pursue this project. Ms. Szypulski volunteered to contact publishing companies.
- Oral History Project
- Loop Canal Centennial

Ms. Olmstead addressed that the Oral History Project is the most important one that needs to be worked on as of right now.

The next CHAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 9, 2010 at 1:00 p.m.

Adjourn

Ms. Fowler made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. McNerney seconded this motion and it was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lindsey Shallcross
Administrative Secretary

